

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Strategic Planning</i>	2
<i>Coastal Conference</i>	3
<i>Carolina Coastline</i>	3
<i>Mission and Interests</i>	Back

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND CAPE MAY PMC: ELDER'S POINT PHASE II

Fall of 2006 marked the beginning of the second phase of the Elders Point marsh creation project sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service and New York Department Environment Conservation.

The Jamaica Bay Islands are a highly degraded, urbanized part of the Jamaica Bay Ecosystem. This ecosystem is part of the Gateway National Recreation Area and encompasses parts of Kings and Queens Counties in the State of New York. Jamaica Bay is plagued by insufficient buffers, previous dredging and filling activities, floating debris, new construction and extensive water quality problems. Nonetheless the area contains significant wildlife and aquatic resources coexisting in this altered setting, even as the total tidal wetland area continues to diminish rapidly. Intertidal marsh is critical to estuarine productivity and without this project, the area will continue to be degraded and diminished until the tidal marsh islands disappear altogether from Jamaica Bay.

In response to these losses, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) plans to restore portions of Elders Point Marsh and Yellow Bar Hassock. Specifically, the project proposes to restore approximately 180 acres of inter-tidal salt marsh (primarily low marsh) between the two selected marsh islands. Execution of the project would involve the placement of sand using a variety of techniques designed to preserve the existing marsh to the greatest degree possible. The ground surface would be contoured to match the elevations of the surrounding salt marsh and planted with a native stock of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*).



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Cape May PMC welcomes new members to the PMC Strategic Planning Committee. This years committee will include:

Zane Helsel	Rutgers Cook College Director Nat'l and Regional Partnerships and Chair of Extension Specialists
Art Brown	Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Former NJ Secretary Agriculture
Joe Lomax	National Association of Conservation Districts Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District Supervisor State Soil Conservation Committee
Martha Maxwell	Deputy Director Partnership for Delaware Bay Estuaries Inc
Tony Pratt	Administrator Delaware Natural Resource Environmental Control Vice President of Policy for American Shoreline Beach Preservation Association
Tom Keck	NJ State Forests, Superintendent
David Friedman	Ocean County Soil and Water Conservation District
Don Hamer	Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District Supervisor Former PMC Manager
Curtis Sharp	Former USDA NRCS National Program Leader

The next Strategic Planning Committee is set for February 27th, 2007.

“What would be the feeling of this Nation, should a foreign nation suddenly enter the United States, and destroy 90,000 acres of land, as erosion has been allowed to do in a single county”.

Hugh Hammond Bennett.

COASTAL CONFERENCE 2007

Plant Sciences for Frontal Dunes and Beach Replenishment Projects will be explored at the March 6-8, 2007, conference at the Golden Inn, Avalon, NJ.

Appropriate for Researchers, Commercial Nurserymen, Environmental Consultants, Environmental Contractors, Planting Subcontractors, Project Designers, Local Municipalities, State and Federal Agencies this conference will include a tour of the PMC. Sponsored by USDA-NRCS and New Jersey Sea Grant, conference will highlight historical coastal sand dune activities, restoration ecology for pioneer zones, restoring coastal dunes in developed communities, beachgrass die-out, GIScience and spatial data analysis and coastal risk assessment, frontal dune evolution and the impact on plant communities, and new plants, new sciences and new market opportunities. For more information visit:

http://www.njmssc.org/News_Events/USDAConference.pdf



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WILMINGTON DISTRICT AND CAPE MAY PMC: DEVELOPING NEW PLANT SCIENCES ON NC MARSH ESTUARIES

Based upon the results of new propagation technologies realized from the Elders Point Project in NY, the Wilmington NC Corps District has approached the Cape May PMC to install Field Evaluation Plantings on a newly created marsh referred to as the Wanchese Project. Results from this project will be published and made available to all interested parties.



“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect”

Aldo Leopold

NRCS Mission Statement: Helping People Help the Land

USDA NRCS National Plant Material Program

The purpose of the Plant Materials Program is to test and release plants that can help solve natural resource problems. Many plants developed by the NRCS are meeting challenges associated with alternatives to foreign energy sources, carbon sequestration, erosion reduction, wetland restoration, water quality improvement, streambank and riparian area protection, coastal dune stabilization, and other special conservation treatment needs. USDA NRCS scientists located at Plant Material Centers, seek out plants that show promise for meeting these and other identified conservation needs. After species are tested and proven, they are released to the private sector for commercial production. This work is carried out at twenty seven USDA NRCS Plant Material Centers located strategically throughout the United States and done cooperatively with state and Federal agencies, commercial businesses, seed and nursery associations.

The Cape May Plant Material Center has been a leader in developing new native plants and technologies for coastal, marine and estuarine habitat.

To learn more about us, visit our web sites at: <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/njpmc/>

Field Offices, District Employees, Partners and Volunteers: We need your help!

The Cape May PMC serves a nine-state service area extending from Massachusetts's to the North Carolina South Carolina border. The plant developmental process used by the Cape May PMC relies heavily on cooperation conservation partners to locate native plant stands; collect materials and ship them to Cape May; locate suitable plant testing sites; record plant performance data; and *publish new scientific findings*. If you or anyone you know would like to become a partner and volunteer your talents contact us at:

USDA NRCS Cape May PMC
1536 Route Nine North
Cape May Court House NJ 08210
(609) 465-5901
William.skaradek@nj.usda.gov



'Atlantic' Coastal Panicgrass

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's **TARGET** Center (202)720-2600(Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340(voice) or (202)720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.